

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1477

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4238

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON:ECAFE

SUBJECT:RED:ECAFE:MARAMIS BRIEFING ON 30TH SESSION

REF: BANGKOK #3300

1. SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS HASTILY CALLED MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MARCH 14 TO DISCUSS LAST MINUTE DETAILS ON 30TH PLENARY SESSION AND HIS VIEWS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 5. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF POLICY ASSESSMENT GROUP REPORT AND HIS OWN REPORT ON PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTRE ECAFE ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN RELEASED. HE ALSO HOPED CONFERENCE WOULD END BY APRIL 6. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A RATHER HASTY, UNEVEN MEETING, HELD TO DISCUSS THE PLENARY IN COLOMBO, MARAMIS APOLOGIZED THAT HE COULD NOT HOLD IT SOONER. HE FIRST INTRODUCED HIS NEW DEPUTY, P. SIRIWARDENE, AND READ A SHORT BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ON THIS FORMER SRI LANKA OFFICIAL WHO HAS WORKED FOR ITS RESERVE BANK AND NATIONAL PLANNING MINISTRY, WAS AT UN 65-67 AND REPRESENTED SRI LANKA AT ECAFE MEETINGS IN LATE 60S. SIRIWARDENE RESPONDED BY DECLARING HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT CHALLENGING.

3. MARAMIS QUICKLY MENTIONED THAT ALL PHYSICAL ARRANGMENTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSPORTATION AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES WERE ADEQUATE. NO

QUESTIONS WERE RAISED. SRI LANKA CHARGE THEN READ LIST OF HOTELS SHOWING LOCATION OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS, AUSTRALIA FOUND IT HAD BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE INTERCONTINENTAL AND PAKISTAN DELEGATION WAS LOST. THE MOST INTERESTING NATIONAL COMBINATION APPEARED AT THE CALLE FACE HOTEL WHERE CANADA, USSR AND GVN HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AND PRC AND KHMER REPUBLIC ARE TENTATIVELY ASSIGNED. KHMER REP ANNOUNCED LATTER AT MEETING THAT IT DID NOT WISH TO BE ASSIGNED SAME HOTEL AS PRC BECAUSE "IT HAS NOT BEEN TOO HELPFUL TO US." SRI LANKA REP SAID CHANGE COULD BE EASILY ARRANGED. ADDING TRATUITIOUSLY THAT PRC UNDOUBTEDLY HAS ALSO OBJECTED TO BEING WITH KHMER DELEGATION. LATER REMARK RPOVOKED MANY ASIAN GIGGLES AND WAS PERHAPS A GOOD INDICATION OF HOST ATTITUDE TO BE EXPECTED AT THIS CONFERENCE.

4. SOCIAL PLANS FOR LUNCHEONS RECEPTION AND DINNERS LISTED MY MARAMIS WERE SAME AS THESE CONTAINED BANGKOK 3300 EXCEPT THAT SL PRESIDENT IS NOW PLANNING GIVE LUCH INSTEAD OF DINNER ON MARCH 29 FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION. AT MOMENT CONFLICT WITH NEW ZEALAND LUCH IS STILL BEING IRONED OUT.

5. MARAMIS INDICATED PRIME MINISTER WILL INAUGURATE CONFERENCE ON MARCH 27. TOKYO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN WILL SPEAK, STATEMENT FROM UNSYG WILL BE READ AND MARAMIS WILL SAY FEW WORDS, MARAMIS CLAIMED ALL DOCUMENTATION HAS BEEN ISSUED EXCEPT FOR TWO ITEMS: USE OF CHINES LANGUAGE AND MEKONG COMMITTEE REPORTS. HE THEN QUICKLY ADDED THAT TWO NEW DOCUMENTS HAVE JUST BEEN ISSUED: (A) REPORT OF POLICY ASSESSMENT GROUP (PAG) AND (B) REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON PRIORITY AREAS. COPIES AIRMAILED APO AND SUMMARIZED IN SEPTEL. AN ADDENDUM TO ANNOTATED AGENDA IS ALSO BEING ISSUED WHICH WILL INCLUDE RESULTS OF ENERGY MEETING AND UPDATE OTHER ITEMS.

6. MARAMIS APOLOGIZED SEVERAL TIMES FOR THE DELAY IN ISSUING HIS OWN AND PAG REPORT, BUT PAG LAST MEETING WAS MARCH 10 MARAMIS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT EH HOPED DICUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 4. WOULD BE DIRECTED TO HIS OWN AND PAG REPORT MARAMIS ALSO MENTIONED IMPORTANCE OF ITEM 5 ON RESTRUCTURING CONFERENCE STRUCTURE ADDING THAT HE AGREED WITH PERMREP'S REPORT BUT THSWERE STILL SOME POINTS THAT NEEDED TO BE SETTLED.

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7. IN RESPONSE TO SRI LANKA CHARGE QUERY, MARAMIS CONFIRMED THAT MASS POVERTY WAS NOT CONSIDERED A PRIORITY ISSUE IN HIS REPORT ALTHOUGH ANNOTATED AGENDA HAD SO CONSIDERED IT. HE ADVISED LOOKING AT ADDENDUM ON ANNOTATED AGENDA,

8. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT US REP QUESTION REGARDING AGENDA FOR HEADS OF DELEGATION'S MEETING, MARAMIS MERELY SAID THAT HE JUST

WANTS THEIR VIEWS ON HOW TO CONCLUDE OR WIND UP AGENDA ITEM 4. WHEN AGAIN PRESSED BY PAKISTAN AND INDIAN REPS. MARAMIS PROMISED THAT A SEPARATE AGENDA WOULD APPEAR BEFORE HEADS OF DELEGATION'S MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 29. MARAMIS EXPECTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WILL BEGIN MEETING ON MARCH 28. HE HOPED TO FINISH CONFERENCE BY APRIL 6 DESPITE DIFFICULTIES IT COULD CAUSE SRI LANKA, HE SAID IT WAS REALLY UP TO MEMBER COUNTRIES TO DECIDE BUT NO REPS EXCEPT USSR RESPONDED. LATTER DECLARED IT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC CONFERENCE COULD END APRIL 6.

9. MARAMIS THEN ASKED THAT DELEGATIONS INFORM SECRETARIAT ASAP WHAT RESOLUTIONS THEY WILL SUBMIT. MARAMIS EXPECTS RESOLUTIONS ON FOLLOWING ITEMS: (A) LUMPINI PARK (B) CONSOLIDATION OF THREE INSTITUTES, AIEDP, ASI AND ACDA(C) THAILAND TO EXTEND AIEDP LEASE FOR ONE MORE YEAR (D) SECOND PHASE OF ASI IN TOKYO (E) ENERGY CRISIS AS IT RELATES TO UNGA APRIL 9. RAW MATERIAL CONFERENCE.

10. IN RESPONSE TO NETHERLANDS' REP QUERY, MARAMIS ADMITTED THAT EVEN IF PAG REPORT IDEAS WERE FULLY ACCEPTED IN DISCUSSION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 4. OLD WORK PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE MODIFIED AT THIS SESSION. PROSPECTIVE NEW LEGISLATIVE BODIES WILL PROPOSE NEW WORK PROGRAMS DURING THE COMING YEAR AND NEW AND THESE WOULD NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL 1975. NETHERLANDS REP SUGGESTED THAT FINAL RESOLUTION OF AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 5 SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF PERMREPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

11. COMMENT: MANY REPS WERE PUZZLED BY LACK OF SPECIFIC DETAILS ESPECIALLY ON TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS. CONSENSUS IS THAT MARAMIS WANTS HEADS OF DELEGATIONS TO BLESS HIS REPORT ON PRIORITY AREAS FOR ECAFE ACTIVITIES AND NOT GET TOO INVOLVED IN SPECIFICS. SEVERAL DELEGATES NOTED THAT PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY USUALLY HAD A DOZEN KEY ITEMS

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TO DISCUSS--BUT THEY RARELY EVER WERE. MANY REPS AGREED MARAMIS SEEMED UNSURE OF HIMSELF AND SOME WONDERED WHETHER HE HAD BEEN TRAVELING TOO MUCH TO DO HIS ECAFE HOMEWORK. KINTNER

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